

Remarks

It is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered in view of the following remarks.

Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. §121

In the Office Action, the claimed invention was restricted into the following groups:

- I. Claims 24-46, drawn to a lining support; and
- II. Claims 47-54, drawn to a method for forming a support.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I, claims 24-46, for examination, with traverse.

This restriction requirement is traversed because Applicant maintains that there is no unreasonable burden placed on the examiner to search the invention of Groups I and II in a single application. As noted in MPEP §803, “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to independent and distinct inventions”.

In the present case, a search of the method claims of Group II would necessitate a search of art for the compositions of Group I as these compositions could be used in such methods. Accordingly, a serious burden is not placed on the examiner by examining the inventions of Groups I and II. Withdrawal of this restriction is requested.

Conclusion

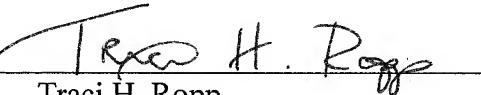
Applicant requests early examination of the elected subject matter on the merits. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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